

REMARKS

The title of the application has been amended to correct an obvious transcription error.

Restriction and Election Requirement

The Examiner has identified as Species A-L the embodiments depicted in, respectively, Figures 1-13. (Figures 6 and 7 being identified as pertaining to a single species)

Applicant elects, without traverse, Species F, the embodiment depicted in Figures 6 and 7.

The Examiner has noted that claim 1 currently appears to be generic and that the application claims will be restricted to the elected species only if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Claims 1-39, all the pending claims, are broad enough to read on the elected species. The various species comprise different physical structures for dispersing the microorganisms within the explosive. None of claims 1-39 is specific to any one of the different structures and, therefore, all claims currently pending read on the elected (as well as the non-elected) species. Dependent claim 15 is specific to the elected species of Figures 6 and 7, in that claim 15 defines a shell (22) which enables water flow to contact the cellulose (62, Figures 6 and 7). The water expands the cellulose chips (60) and thereby promotes the formation of cracks (64, Figure 7) in the matrix of the cast explosive material (30).

The Information Disclosure Statement

Paragraphs 5-7 of the office action point out deficiencies of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 12/30/2003 by Applicants' prior attorneys, in view of the failure to supply copies of the cited foreign patent and non-patent literature. In paragraph 7 of the office action, the Examiner requested that this literature be supplied. It is submitted herewith in three indexed and tabbed binders. The deficiencies in the IDS noted by the Examiner are believed to be overcome by the materials submitted herewith, comprising legible copies of each cited foreign patent document and

non-patent literature publication. A translation into English is attached to each enclosed document that is not in the English language.

Respectfully submitted,

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